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The CONDOR



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Santa Clara, California.

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ANNOUNCEMENT!

I propose to edit a quarterly ornithological paper, called *Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology*. It will be published from Bristol, R. I., in January, April, July and October, and will consist of from four to eight pages, composed of general articles and notes. It is hoped that all persons interested in the subject will contribute to the paper, and will help to enlarge its field of usefulness. *Subscription, seventy-five cents.*

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Longwood, Brookline, Massachusetts.

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Among the articles appearing in the next few issues will be "Rare or Extinct Birds of the Hawaiian Islands," by Wm. Alanson Bryan, Burnice Pauaha Bishop Museum, Honolulu. In this article Mr. Bryan will also treat on the natural features of the country and the difficulties that beset our correspondents while collecting there; also an article on the museum at that place. "Camping on The Old Camp Grounds," by Paul Bartsch, United States Museum, Washington, D. C., whose ability in ornithological literature is recognized by everyone. "A Detailed Study of The Plumage of The Blue Jay," by Morton E. Peck, is a full discussion of the subject and embracing the questions of development of the feathers, feathered areas, classification and development of the feathers, and their microscopic structure, all such points being thoroughly illustrated by drawings. This article is one of Mr. Peck's most valuable productions, and the field being a wide and comparatively unknown one to the average reader, admits of exhaustive treatment without growing wearisome, and will, therefore, continue through several issues. "The Turkey Buzzard in Cuba," by J. C. Hildebrand, is another illustrated article, both valuable and interesting; also "Bird Migration Courses, as Effected by Topography," by Wilmon Newell; and numerous other articles by the most eminent ornithological writers in this and other countries. Also reproductions of the famous paintings by William Savage and others.

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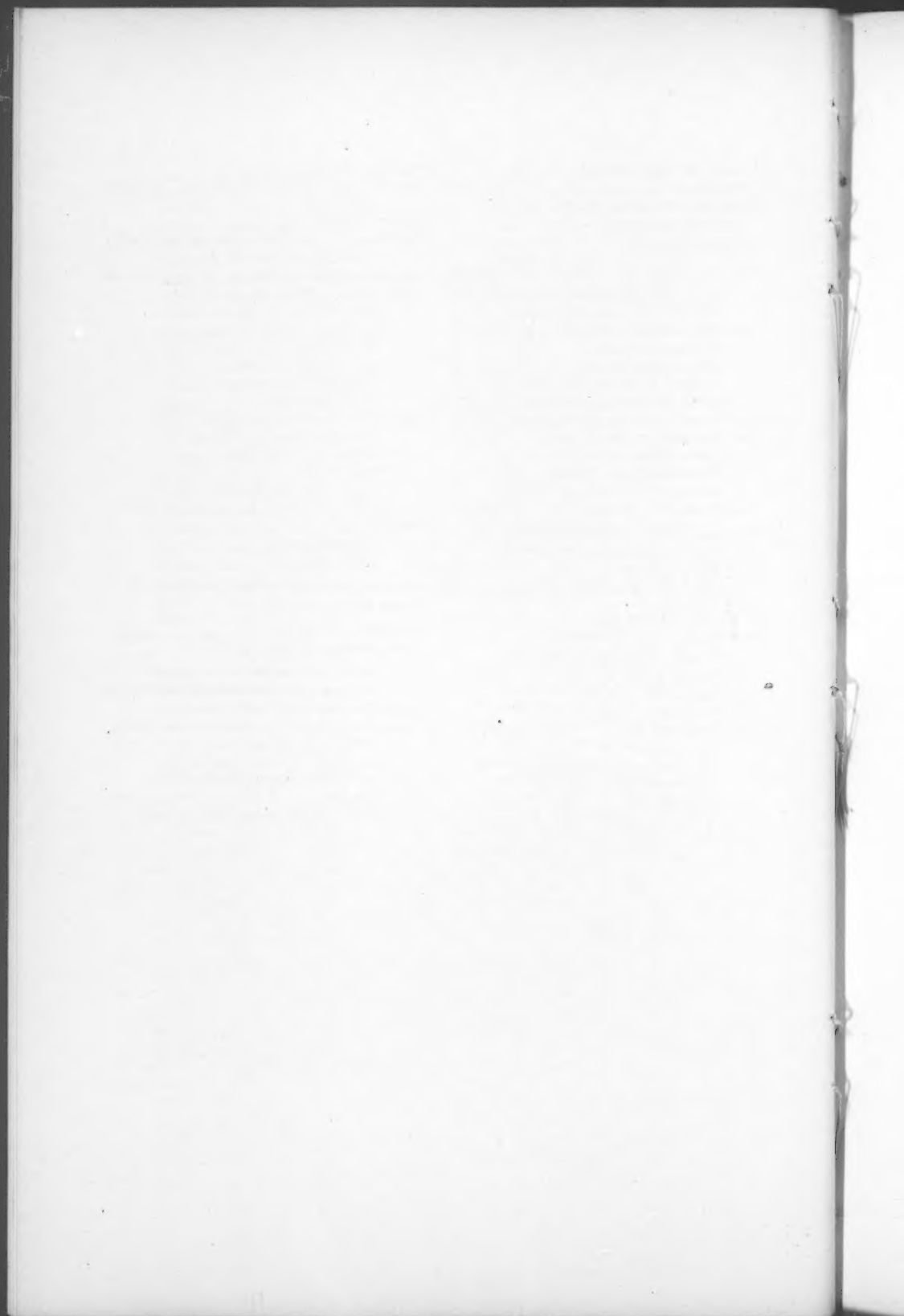
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A Part of My Experience in Collecting.

BY LYMAN BELDING*

DURING the spring of 1876 I secured a volume of *California Ornithology* and began industriously to collect and identify the birds of this state. I had been an ardent sportsman ever since I was a small boy and had supposed that I knew most of the birds, but my first bird book astonished me with many I did not know and had never heard of. I had never met an ornithologist or oologist and did not know there were any in California. I had met several persons who could mount birds and I had mummified and mounted some, but I soon found that a mummy was not a joy forever if it was a thing of beauty when first mounted. I had no difficulty in identifying my specimens, but in order to be sure my identifications were correct, I sent specimens to Washington for Mr. Ridgway's opinion.

He and Prof. Baird gave me kind encouragement and Mr. Ridgway was very patient and prompt in writing long, interesting letters concerning the specimens I had sent. I was given many valuable books from the National Library, after which Prof. Baird sent me a catalogue of the publications it contained and told me to ask for anything I wanted. I was very grateful for these kind attentions and my zeal for the work was greatly stimulated. I

do not think this kind encouragement was exceptional, for I think Profs. Baird and Ridgway were always glad to assist the student of natural history.

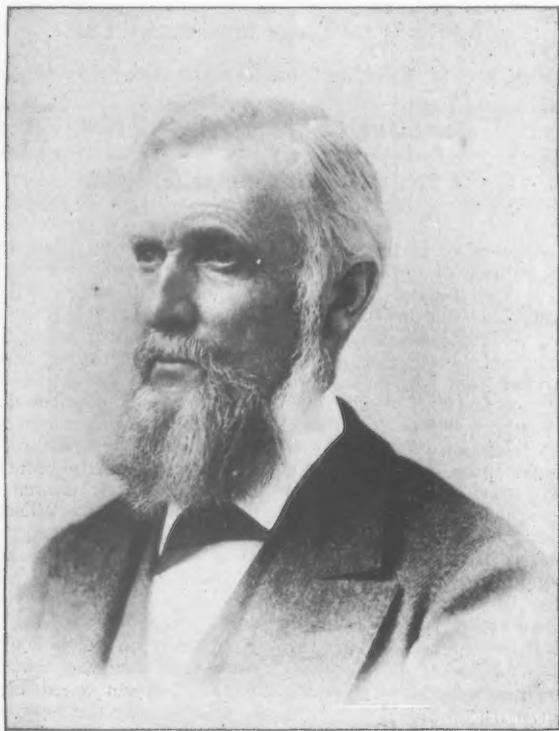
My success in identifying specimens was due, partly, to my already knowing many of the species and partly to the excellence of Baird's descriptions in *California Ornithology* and Vol. IX, *Pacific R. R. Reports*, and again, partly because many sub-species had not yet been recognized. I was sometimes materially assisted by Wilson's simple descriptions. Fortunately, my *California Ornithology* contained uncolored plates. I found more pleasure in identifying strange birds than in anything else, except, perhaps, collecting in the Sierra Nevadas. I need not explain this to those who love the woods and mountains. I never went on a collecting trip, especially the long ones, without taking some of my most needed books, and Vol. IX was always one of them.

In the spring of 1881, Messrs. Baird and Ridgway requested me to visit Guadalupe Island, and a sum of money was promised for 80 skins of the island birds. I went to San Diego intending to go to Guadalupe, but several persons who had been there sealing, advised me not to go. Mr. W. W. Stewart told me of Dr. Edward Palmer's experience there, who, with his son Harry Stewart, had nearly starved on the island; that the Mexican garrison had been removed and that I would find the island

*Read June 6, 1899, before the Section of Ornithology, California Academy of Sciences, and kindly sent the CONDOR for publication by Mr. Belding.

uninhabited. Reluctantly I gave up the voyage to Guadalupe and went to Cerros Island. Cerros or Cedros was the second objective point of my instructions. I found Cerros quite destitute of birds, and after staying there twelve days we went to Scammon's Lagoon for the purpose of collecting on

Quentin Bay where I spent ten days. We were compelled to anchor near the mouth of the bay and a long tramp was necessary to reach any good collecting ground. Consequently, when I returned to San Diego I felt that my voyage had been anything but successful, though I got the types of *Phalacrocorax*



LYMAN BELDING.

Honorary Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Active Member of the American Ornithologists' Union and prominently identified with Pacific Coast ornithology since 1876. One of Mr. Belding's most favorably known works is his "Land Birds of the Pacific District," besides its companion part, "Water Birds of the Pacific District," which was presented to the Cooper Ornithological Club in manuscript form a few years since.

the peninsula. The surf was so dangerous we did not attempt to enter the lagoon. It was here that Mr. Anthony's schooner was wrecked in 1898.

From off Scammon's Lagoon we followed the coast northward, went ashore at Santa Rosalie Bay for a few hours, and then continued up the coast to San

dilophus albociliatus on Cerros, besides a new lizard or two, and at Coronada Islands during the last of the voyage. I got Mr. Brewster's type of *Hamatopus frazari*. At San Quentin Bay I first got specimens of the bird which Mr. Ridgway later named *Ammodramus beldingi*. As I had not strictly followed

my instructions, I paid the cost of the voyage (about \$500) and did not ask for any remuneration,—in fact, I have never received a cent for specimens or for any collecting I have done, nor would I have accepted money for my work.

During the winters of 1881-2 and 1882-3 I collected in the Cape region, from La Paz to Cape San Lucas, excepting the time that I was at Guaymas which was nearly all of December, 1882, and a part of April, 1883. My outfit from Washington did not accompany me to Guaymas and the Mexican customs officials would not pass it across the line at Nogales, but I afterward found it at La Paz, whence it had been forwarded from San Francisco by express. My collecting in the Cape region was satisfactory, notwithstanding some hardships I endured. The region is mostly a semi-desert, water is scarce and I several times suffered for the want of it. I made the mistake of collecting many things of which I knew little or nothing, instead of confining myself almost entirely to birds. Had I done this, one winter's collecting would have satisfied me quite as well as two.

I found San Jose del Cabo the best field of the low country and the Victoria mountains the best of the mountainous parts. I have often wondered why the sharp-eyed, indefatigable Xantus did not see *Geothlypis beldingi* on the San Jose river, where he spent a great deal of time, and also if it had rapidly changed since he was there some thirty years before. I do not think he was ever in the Victoria mountains or he would have found the very common *Junco bairdi* and other common birds of these mountains, which are known to the California Academy scientists as Laguna,—a decided misnomer—as the little lagoon that once existed at the lower end of a little valley, went down the mountain during a violent rainstorm which cut away a natural dam that held it. Then there are quite a number of lagunas or lagoons in the Cape Region.

The second time I was in the Cape Region I took only seventy or eighty bird skins, for I did not wish to get many. I consumed about a week of

this time in getting two specimens of the new rail, *Rallus beldingi*. I only heard of one man at La Paz who had ever seen one and several hunters were surprised when I showed them one of the birds. These birds can best be obtained at low tide when they move about in the mangrove thickets in search of food. I got my specimens by patiently waiting for them to pass comparatively open spots in the mangle. I rode sixteen consecutive days without skinning a bird, though I occasionally shot them when in doubt of the species. My collecting basket during that time contained two very interesting aboriginal skulls which Dr. ten Kate and I got in a cavern. I have travelled considerably in the northern part of the peninsula, having, on one trip, been absent from San Diego sixteen days. I was at Laguna, which is about sixty miles south of Campo, in May, 1885. I secured three specimens of *Sitta pygmaea leuconucha* at this laguna. A few days later I tried in San Francisco to get specimens of *S. pygmaea* to compare with them, but did not succeed in finding a solitary specimen. I then donated the specimens to the National Museum.

About this time I thought it time for me to stop ornithological study unless we could have a good study collection of bird skins in California, and thinking the Academy the right place for such a collection, I advised all or many of my California correspondents to contribute to the California Academy of Sciences. I believe that advice has borne some fruit, but not as much as it should have borne. I knew that under the trinomial system, *hair-splitting* would be almost without limit. I had noticed local differentiations, but could do nothing without many specimens for comparison, and after all, "was the game worth the candle?" I doubted it. As nearly as I remember, in 1876, only two Screech Owls were credited to the United States. Now there are about a dozen subspecies and the Horned Larks have multiplied in like proportion. I remember reading a good article in the *Auk* some years since, in which the writer, Dr. Allen, asks in substance if it is profitable to name these slight divergencies. Nevertheless much can be said in favor of

naming them,—quite as much as against it.

The pleasantest days I have spent since 1876 have been in the mountains of Central California. Since that time I have been in these mountains the most of each summer. I couple deer, grouse and quail hunting with bird study. At first I tried to connect botany with ornithology, but I could not look on the ground for plants and in the trees for birds at the same time. The ornithologist should, however, know the prominent plants at least. During my rambles I have noticed the hardness of some of our mountain annual plants. I have seen the mercury down to 22 degrees on two successive mornings and no trace of frost afterward, except that a few of the tenderest ferns were killed. I suppose this may be owing to dry air and cool nights, the latter preventing the rapid growth and consequent tenderness of kindred plants grown where both days and nights are warm.

The first eggs I collected were about on a par with my first bird skins. I picked a hole in each end with a pin, never having seen or heard of egg drills and blow-pipes. Eggs of Townsend's Solitaire and others quite as choice were thus punctured. I believe I took the first eggs of the Solitaire, which were sent to the National Museum. The nest is composed almost wholly of pine needles and can readily be distinguished from any other nest of the Sierras. It is usually on the ground, but I have seen one in a hole in a stump about a foot from the ground. Perhaps there is no part of the world more interesting than the high Sierras of Central California. Neither Heermann, Gambel or Xantus explored them. Mr. Bell got the Round-headed Woodpecker in Calaveras or Tuolumne county, but this he could have done at an altitude of 2500 feet or less in winter. Prior to 1876 these mountains had hardly been touched by the ornithologist, the route immediately along the Central Pacific Railroad and about Lake Tahoe being the only parts that had been visited. Considerable work had been done south of Tehachapi; Newberry had followed the Sacramento river to the Klamath Lakes and north-

ward and Capt. Feilner had collected at Fort Crook and about Mt. Shasta, but the mountains in the central part of the state had been neglected.

If any of the young ornithologists of this state have not visited these mountains in summer they should miss no opportunity to do so. My most interesting observations have been those of evenings and moonlight nights in some secluded part of the forest where large game was abundant. I have often heard the Pygmy Owl, which Mr. Ridgway correctly says is diurnal and crepuscular and have quite as often heard the Flammulated Owl, which is strictly nocturnal and hard to get. I have only taken one specimen. The Western Barred Owl has never ceased to interest me, for it is quite familiar and seems to have a fondness for *talking back!* By imitating its shrieks and dog-like barkings, I seldom fail to get a response. I have several times been near panthers when they screamed and I can say positively that the Sierra panther does scream, although the panther of the Adirondacks is said to be a silent animal, while that of the Cape region also screams. One screamed near our camp one night and our pack mule was so badly frightened that it rushed hurriedly to the camp-fire for protection. One night at the Calaveras Big Trees a panther gave several loud screams which were followed by low chest growls. Immediately every animal about the place was silent, although previously about two dozen bells on sheep and cattle in the corral had been tinkling, and a dozen or more horses on a board floor had been continually stamping. But the panther silenced every bell and hoof, and the silence continued several minutes. I have seen a yearling deer crouch motionless fully half an hour after a panther screamed about one hundred yards away. I was sitting in the bushes near a deer lick and the deer was about twenty-five feet from me. The panther probably catches fawns and young deer by terrifying them. I have caught fawns by yelling at them.

The high Sierras have been explored but little in winter. I have been in the lower edge of the fir or pine belt

the most of ten or eleven winters and have several times gone as high as 5,000 feet, but these higher ascents were only when there was but little snow. About the middle of November some years ago I was at the summit of the Central Pacific Railroad, altitude 7,000 feet. The ground was mostly bare and I saw only a few birds and fewer animals, the Little Chief hare being one of the latter. The reptiles and batrachians were sleeping their long annual sleep which covers fully two-thirds of the year at this height, and the sleep of the marmot and some of the small animals is nearly as long. A few asters and *Sidalcea* were in flower in protected situations.

Summit is a good locality for making winter observations but when the snow is from ten to twenty feet deep, as it usually is in winter, snow-shoes would be a necessary part of the observer's outfit and snow-blindness must be guarded against. I hope this mere outline of my experiences in collecting will interest the young ornithologists of the Academy, and in closing will say that, owing largely to the good influence of the Stanford and State Universities, scientific study is now much better appreciated by the people of California than it was when I began, in my crude way, to study ornithology.

The Varied Thrush in Summer.

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Nov. 25, 1899.]

THE Varied Thrush (*Hesperocichla nevada*) is pre-eminently a bird of the West, being confined principally to the Pacific Coast from Alaska to California. It is a familiar winter visitant throughout the southern coast region, and here in Southern California it often appears in late fall in very large numbers in the foot-hills, feeding on the berries of the California holly. The summer home of this bird has been considered to be mainly north of the United States and chiefly within the heavily wooded Sitkan District, but ranging northward less commonly through the Yukon Valley. I found the Varied Thrush breeding in moderate numbers at Sitka, Alaska in the summer of '96. But I was rather surprised to find the species a much more numerous breeding bird in the Kowak Valley in northwestern Alaska, which is the extreme north of its range. In the spring of 1899 it appeared commonly in almost every tract of spruces, as near the coast of Kotzebue Sound as the first timber in the Kowak Delta, about ten miles east of Hotham Inlet. On May 28 I found it nest-building near upper timber-limit on the base of the Jade Mountains, on the northern border of the Kowak Valley and near the head of Hunt River.

At our winter camp which was lo-

cated near the confluence of Hunt River and the Kowak, about 175 miles east from the mouth of the latter, the first Varied Thrush arrived on the 21st of May, when the twanging notes of the males were heard several times during the morning and evening. The next day they had arrived in full force, and were to be seen and heard in every heavy stretch of woods. The snow had by this date nearly all disappeared, though the rivers and lakes were still covered with ice. Their food at this season consisted largely of wild cranberries and blueberries which were left from the previous summer's crop, and had been preserved under the winter snows. The birds were quite lively for members of the thrush tribe, which are usually of a quiet demeanor. When not feeding on the ground in one of the fruitful openings in the forest, they would be seen in wild pursuit of one another, either courting or quarrelling. The males were often seen in fierce combat, that is, fierce for a thrush. Of course some female ensconced in a thick evergreen in the vicinity was the cause of the dispute. I never saw just how a quarrel would commence. The swift pursuit would follow a tortuous route, twisting among the close-standing trees and across openings, so rapidly as to be difficult to follow with the eye. The

finale would be a short scrimmage among the thick foliage of a spruce, with a clatter of beating wings and a few sharp squeals like a robin's. They would fall slowly through the branches to the ground, when the contestants would separate, panting, and puffing out different parts of their plumage. The greatest apparent injury to either of the belligerents would be the loss of two or three feathers, yet one of them would consider himself fairly beaten, and soon retire, leaving the victor free to press his suit.

The song of the male Varied Thrush consists of a series of peculiar notes uttered slowly and at rather long intervals. Each note is complete in itself. It is a quavering *twang* with a faint rasping quality, the effect resembling the twang of a banjo string on a cracked bridge. These strange notes are produced in various keys, including a full octave, but the succession in which they are slowly uttered is irregular; a high note, then a low one, then a medium, with apparently no set arrangement. I have heard a single thrush from his secluded perch near the top of a dark evergreen, thus "sing" for twenty minutes at a time. It is an odd bird song, but when heard amid the solitude of the dark, damp spruce woods, it has an indescribably melancholy musical quality, which sets one to dreaming of far-away home. Many a half-hour have I spent lying on my back on some mossy hummock in the northern forest, spell-bound by this Mesmer of the woods. The ordinary call-note or note of warning of both male and female is a low liquid "quirt." It is heard quite frequently as one walks through the woods disturbing the thrushes, the sites of whose homes may be near by. In the Kowak Valley, I noticed the first signs of nest-building by the Varied Thrush, on the 25th of May, just four days after their arrival, and by the 28th nearly every pair were busy, for the summer is short and there is no loitering as in the case of many southern birds.

The female does all the work of constructing the nest, the male accompanying her constantly in her many trips after material, but as far as my observ-

ations go, never proffering any assistance. Many of the nests are built on those of the previous year as a foundation, and I even found three-storied nests. The old nests are flattened and dilapidated by the heavy August rains and winter snows, with the mud mostly dissolved out of them. During the winter a tour of the woods discloses hundreds of old thrushes' nests in various states of preservation, and in some sections nearly every tree harbors one or more. Where well-protected in dense spruce, they must survive many years. Probably the same pair of birds returns to a single nesting site for several successive seasons, especially if they raise their young there, unmolested. I found no evidence of any natural enemies of the Varied Thrush during the breeding season. The shrikes and small hawks seem to prey mainly on mice and lemmings with an occasional Redpoll.

All the nests of the Varied Thrush observed were in spruces, and varied in height above the ground from six to twenty feet, the latter being far above the average height which I should judge to be ten feet. Even in the tallest timber, the nesting sites are chosen in the lower foliage at a similar elevation. The parent birds are very solicitous about the safety of their homes, and the female, especially, exhibits great distress, when the nest is disturbed. The female performs the entire duty of incubation, at least I never discovered a male bird on the nest. The female sits very close, once remaining on the nest until I had climbed within a yard of her, and in this instance there were as yet no eggs in the nest. While one is near the nest, the female flies wildly around the tree at a short distance, uttering loud squeals and cries, much resembling those of the common robin. The male is less vehement in his protests and follows the movements of the female, but at a longer radius answering her screams with the ordinary liquid alarm note, frequently uttered. I often found it an unpleasant undertaking to rob a nest in the face of such unmistakable solicitude and remonstrance, and I would hurriedly leave the vicinity after the deed was

done, like some criminal, to escape further contumely. An "egg-hog" *does* sometimes feel conscience-smitten, as I am willing to admit.

The nest of the Varied Thrush is usually built close to the main trunk of a spruce, often directly against it, and supported by a clump of the stiff horizontal twigs or small branches. Sometimes the surrounding foliage renders the nest almost completely hidden from view. And then again, it may be supported by bare dead branches affording scarcely any screen. The majority of the nests are situated on the south sides of the tree-trunks, as probably being the warmest and driest side, and then too, strong, cold north winds are of frequent occurrence. All the nests which I have examined are very much alike in composition and structure. The foundation is a rather loose and bulky mass of plant stems, dry spruce twigs and grasses, but the nest proper is a solid, closely-felted structure. The bottom and sides are substantially formed of a mixture of mud, and wet, partly-decomposed grasses and moss. The amount of mud varies in different nests, and in some there is scarcely any; but the various vegetable materials are always incorporated when wet, so that after the structure dries, the walls and rim are very firm like *papier mache*. When finished the nest presents a neatly moulded, cup-shaped cavity, with an inner lining of fine dry grasses. The measurements of a typical nest are as follows: Inside diameter 3.25 inches; depth, 2.25. Outside diameter, 6.50; depth 4.50. The weights of the dry nests vary from one-half to one pound, depending on the amount of mud in their composition.

The earliest egg of the Varied Thrush was found on June 2, and on the 4th, a fresh set of three eggs was taken; on the 6th, a set of four, incubation slight. The latter seemed to be the average date of completion of the full set of eggs, although a slightly incubated set of four eggs, was taken as late as the 23rd of June. Of four sets of four each taken on the 11th, one was fresh and in three, incubation was well advanced. I secured eleven sets of the eggs of the Varied Thrush. There are two sets of

three, seven sets of four, and two sets of five eggs each, forty-four eggs in all. This series exhibits remarkable uniformity in size and coloring. The ground color is Nile blue, the exact tint varying somewhat, probably due to different terms of incubation and exposure to the light. The eggs are rather sparsely but evenly dotted and spotted with burnt umber and seal brown, with similar-sized "shell-markings" of ecru drab and vinaceous tints. The eggs of one set show larger blotchy markings of raw umber. One egg is almost without markings, thus resembling the robin's. There is a slight tendency toward a congregation of the markings at the larger ends, in some cases. In shape the eggs vary between ovate and short-ovate. The average measurements of the forty-four eggs are in inches, 1.18x.84. The largest egg measures 1.24x.88; the smallest, 1.10x.83.

In size and ground color the eggs of the Varied Thrush closely resemble those of the California Thrasher, but the spottings are fewer, finer and much darker. Taking every character into consideration, the Varied Thrush's eggs appear unique and not to be confused with those of any other North American bird with which I am acquainted.

In the San Francisco *Chronicle* of Oct. 29, Mr. H. R. Taylor occupied a page with a delightful popular article on ornithology, with appropriate illustrations. Mr. Taylor has done much toward popularizing ornithology on the Coast, by his frequent versatile, yet accurate, writings on birds.

ALL aspiring oologists in California who may have had designs upon the "first set" for the season have been thwarted by Mr. Grinnell's taking a set 1-3 Pasadena Thrasher on Dec. 15. And this so soon after Mr. Grinnell's return from eighteen months in the wilds of Alaska!

MR. CHAS. A. KEELER, well known as an ornithologist of ability, and author of "Evolution of Color in North American Land Birds," has recently issued a popular work under the title of "Bird Notes Afield," which is being well received on the Coast.



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COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB, 1900.



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COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB, 1900.

Casual Observations on a Colony of Black-crowned Night Herons.

BY D. A. COHEN, ALAMEDA, CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Jan. 6, 1900.]

DOUBTLESS ornithologists were surprised to see a nesting colony of Black-crowned Night Herons spring up in the city of Alameda, and have not ceased to expect strange things—the time when women no more adorn their headgear with any bird but English Sparrows—when all oologists blow fresh eggs with small holes and Duck Hawks learn to change their roost after having been robbed five or six times a season. I often wondered why the numerous Black-crowned Night Herons that roosted in the tall trees in town used them for a diurnal skulking place only and never nested within my recollection, although in 1883 I found two or three large, flat nests composed of sticks, in an oak grove frequented by these herons. It was not until 1898 that a nest was discovered in any of the roosting places and it is reasonable to conclude that eggs would have created young herons whose clamorous noises would have indicated their presence to anyone living within five hundred yards.

The 10th of May is the date I had fixed in previous years to obtain complete sets from the colonies I knew of in the county, and having climbed to the top of a tall cypress on our premises and found young almost able to fly on June 23, would indicate the parents began nesting at the common period. I was attracted to the tree by hearing the noises of the young the night before and was at the time over three hundred yards distant in an air line. The dense tree also held at the same date two nests of two eggs each, a nest of three young, unfledged, that snapped viciously at my fingers and coughed up the contents of their stomachs that had a "kill-me-quick," muscular odor. This vomiting seems to be a common trait of self-defense with this bird as noticed in other colonies. Also the young climb away along the branches at the intruder's approach, with the agility of a tight-rope performer, and a very severe shaking of the branches is necessary to loosen their hold.

The next tree, close by, held a nest containing one egg and was found empty two days later. In the third tree several sticks were placed crosswise in a likely position for a nest, but no more were ever added. All the nests were at least sixty feet from the ground close to the tree tops and highest of all was a nest full of English Sparrows. They were easy to reach, being placed on small branches near the main limb and were flat affairs, averaging one foot in diameter and composed of dead twigs of cypress and locust apparently detached from the trees by the birds. No more eggs were added by June 30. The shells once encircling the young lay directly below on the ground and spatters of dried egg with fragments of shell on the trunk and limbs just below the nests gave a clew to a previous possible combat. The larger brood of young were now flying and the younger brood kept up their noise for several weeks, and as no sounds of young birds or egg shells were heard and seen from any other of the numerous trees except from one group of cypress, where shells and noises indicated three or four nests, I am conscious of having ascertained the total juvenile census for that year. The colony roosted by day in the thick evergreen, departing at dusk in Indian file with many a "squawk" to the salt marsh half a mile distant, as has been their wont for years.

In 1899, on May 23, I climbed a "new" tree and found six nests, invisible from the ground, as in all cases, on account of the height and density of the trees. One nest was easily reached and the second was rather risky to get at, both near the main limb. The eggs of two more far out on the branches were taken in with the aid of a small tin can on the end of a pole, and the other two were too far out to reach, but eggs were seen in them. The pole was maneuvered with tediousness and difficulty among the many branches. Of the first three trees mentioned for 1898, the first one contained two sets of eggs

which I removed, but subsequent sets were laid and young raised. Other high, gigantic trees were climbed, some having been trimmed up from the ground, rendering it necessary to use a ladder and a rope to gain foothold on the first branches. Small, weak branches for a few feet had to be overcome before firmer ones higher up were gained and a thick coating of accumulated guano and a sort of dust peculiar to thick evergreens which the heaviest rains fail to remove, many squeezes and contortions, the cumbersome work of bringing the pole and can being accomplished, standing room was frequently at a premium, and the swaying of the tree tops rendered it risky reaching for the eggs and it was safe only during intermissions to work the scoop on the eggs so as to insure no damage to them. Many nests were out of reach, so the pole was dispensed with nearly altogether and only several were "easy." All the nests held sets of three eggs except three nests of four eggs each, incubation fresh to far advanced. No young were noted. This data is also applicable to May 29.

In all, I judged there were sixty nests containing eggs, including those in trees not climbed, this being corroborated by the cries of the young emanating therefrom from one to two weeks later. Their racket continued as late as September in rare cases, so some sets were laid perhaps in late July. Their incessant din commenced about dusk and lasted long after daybreak. I slept outdoors most of the summer and listened to the din of a heronry in town whether willing or not. (If anybody calls this a "shitepoke" town there may be some consolation in the thought that I saw a Green Heron roosting on a front yard fence in the main street of Alviso). The usual note was a "chuck, chuck, chuck" continued for a few seconds, varied with a "chucka-chuck-chuck, chuck-chuck" with an occasional ghastly screech or squawk. One bird after another in the same nest would keep the concert up all night with casual intermissions, and two or more birds keeping their own time created a rag-time jargon highly ludicrous.

At times a series of guttural squawks and yells from one spot probably indicated a scramble for food from a returning parent rather than a disagreement, the noises suggesting anything sepulchral and uncanny. The nearest approach to the "quack" note of the adult were guttural hisses and a squawk resembling that of a half-grown chicken. Even in the sunshine of midday the birds were not altogether silent. The trees were all close to the houses and barns as if so chosen for protection, and several times I noticed young birds on the tops of chicken yard fences or feeding at the trough. Others were walking about industriously seeking food, probably bits of fish that had dropped from the nests to the dry, parched ground, and instead of seeking safety by flight would hop to the low limbs and ascend foot-over-foot. Some were captured before getting out of reach and gave vent to loud, most diabolical squawks, alarming the nearest adults to fly out of the trees, and fought viciously, striking with their beaks, open-mouthed, with necks hunched up ready to strike at the captor's eyes.

The adults returned from the marshes apparently at intervals all night judging by the renewed clamor of the young. They were noticeable at dawn approaching with steady wing beat that changed into a long glide down an inclined plane toward the trees, then a few flaps and they were hidden in the tree tops. Others arrived at intervals up to 10 o'clock, low tides seemingly influencing late feeding. The feeding of the young is done apparently by the process of regurgitation and I have never detected one carrying food in its beak. The common note of the adult is heard from dusk to sunrise, much more so at dusk. They are sociable and peaceable yet ludicrously timid and when harassed by blackbirds and small hawks or even frightened by gun fire or earthquakes they freely utter loud, guttural squawks indicative of the highest expressions of cowardice and fear imaginable, laughable in the extreme. During the day, in early spring especially, they often use a garrulous note, a sort of subdued "cluck," exactly re-

sembling the scraping of a tin pan with a spoon.

The Great Blue Heron is often found in the trees with this colony, being present chiefly at night, but I do not expect to see it nest. There is a smaller heronry of Black-crowns in the central part of Alameda near "Buck" Ward's house, over two miles distant, which was only started up this year, and the approximate number of thirty eggs taken was all the traffic would bear, if reports are correct!

Capture of a Condor in El Dorado Co. Cal. In 1854.

In the autumn of 1854, two men, Alonzo Winship, a former pony express rider on the plains, and Jesse Millikan, were acting as trackwalkers for the South Fork flume in El Dorado Co., Cal. Their cabin was situated between North and South Canyon, and one morning they noticed a large condor in a dead spruce tree, on the mountain side, below their cabin. Loading a rifle, one of the party started for the bird but it had disappeared. After breakfast Mr. Millikan started toward the head of the flume, whilst Mr. Winship went down the flume toward White Rock, eight miles away.

As he was crossing the aqueduct over North Canyon, he saw an enormous condor asleep at the base of a cliff that jutted about twenty feet above the flume. Surprised that the bird had not been awakened by his footsteps along the flume, he hesitated a moment, then decided to attempt to kill the bird. Having nothing but his shovel he threw it with all his force, striking the condor and breaking its wing. The condor, thus rudely disturbed, jumped from its perch, and running under the flume, started down the mountain toward the American River with Mr. Winship following closely after. The condor's broken wing impeded its progress, and finding its pursuer was gaining upon it, it turned savagely upon him and he was compelled to take refuge upon a granite boulder just out of its reach, realizing he had a dangerous enemy.

As the condor walked around and

around the rock of refuge, eyeing him revengefully, Mr. Winship called to Mr. Millikan who was not yet out of hearing. The latter thinking his friend had flushed a covey of grouse, stopped at the cabin on his way and procured his rifle. When in sight of his friend on his granite perch he called:

"What have you got 'Lonzo?"

"Oh! I've got the great grand daddy of all birds," was the reply.

The condor was in such a fury that it paid no attention to the new comer, but continued its circuit around the boulder, eyeing its prisoner who called to Mr. Millikan, "Look out or he will go for you."

Getting a good glimpse of the bird and amazed at its size, Mr. Millikan exclaimed, "We must not kill him; we must take him alive." After considerable planning, Mr. Millikan secured a long, clean, strong, cedar pole and succeeded in dropping it across the back of their quarry, and both men threw themselves upon it. The trapped condor fought so savagely with its beak that Mr. Millikan stripped his coat off over his head and muffling the bird's head, they were finally able to secure it. Carrying the bird to the house, they took some flour sacks, cutting holes in them and passing the feet through; they then prepared splints and properly set and adjusted its broken wing, and over all, they placed bandages securely. They fastened a trace chain to one leg, securing the other end to a post. The condor had plenty of room for exercise, but woe to any object that came within reach of its bill. It knew to a fraction of an inch just how far it could reach, and, within that limit nothing escaped minus the loss of a bill full of flesh, hair or clothes.

The packers who supplied the cabin with meat, brought quantities from the slaughter house, and it would devour five pounds of meat at one meal. The owners of the slaughter house desired it, and with much difficulty the bird was again secured, taken down the mountain and turned loose in the stockade of the corral, where it was boss of all, animate or inanimate. No dog ever tried conclusions with it twice. Finally

it disappeared one day and the vaqueros thought it had gone for good, but a week later, a miner prospecting on the river bank found it more dead than alive from starvation, as its wing was not yet thoroughly healed. All the bird's fight was gone, and the miner, without the slightest difficulty, conveyed it back to the stockade, where it was well fed and soon regained its old time ferocity. Finally, during the second autumn, it disappeared for good and they supposed it had gone south. Its wing measurement from tip to tip lacked one inch of eleven feet, being exactly ten feet, eleven inches.

CATHARINE MILLIKAN.

Santa Clara, Cal.

[This paper records the occurrence of the California Condor in the Sierra Nevada in 1854, at which time the birds were doubtless not uncommon in suitable localities. None have been recorded from this region in late years.—ED.]

A Neglected Point Concerning the Picidae.

There is a matter of some importance concerning the immature plumage of the *Picidae* that does not seem to be brought forward in the leading ornithological works of reference. As ignorance on this point is apt to be misleading to the amateur and to the collector not well acquainted with the woodpecker family, it seems strange that such a matter should be overlooked. What I refer to is the fact that in at least some members of the genus *Dryobates* and the genus *Melanerpes*, the female in its first autumn resembles the male in respect to the crimson markings upon the crown of the head.

This is especially prominent in the *Melanerpes f. bairdi* where the immature females have the crimson of the crown extending down to the white of the forehead. As the female approaches the true adult plumage the crimson on that portion of the crown which will eventually be permanently black, becomes thinner and less bright and the line of final demarcation between the black and crimson patches of the adult can be distinctly traced.

I have not had the opportunity to examine many specimens of immature

Dryobates, but have collected enough of one or two varieties to show that this peculiarity is present, though in a much less marked degree than in the *Melanerpes* group. At what age the change to the true adult plumage occurs I do not know. Our records show that a specimen of *Dryobates nuttalli* ♀ was collected in January with a trace of the crimson still remaining, but nothing later. As the proportion of immature birds to the adults is small after they have once left the parental care, it is difficult for one collector to gather enough material to study out this matter unless he is constantly in the field. For this reason it would be of great benefit if our ornithological friends would give their experience on this subject, and I hope that some of the readers of this journal will kindly assist in bringing out the facts.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

San Geronimo, Cal.

(Read before the Northern Division of the C. O. Club, Jan. 6, 1900.)

MR. NATHAN M. MORAN of San Luis Obispo, a member of the Cooper Club and now attending the University of California at Berkeley, was recently honored by being elected editor-in-chief of the college paper, the *Daily Californian*. The election was warmly contested but Mr. Moran carried off the highest honors of college journalism at the State University, a distinction easily worth prizing.

CHAS. C. TRYON of Avoca, Ia. announces the publication on Jan. 15 of the initial number of the *Western Ornithologist*, a bi-monthly magazine of ornithology. Mr. Tryon states that the new magazine is but a continuation of the *Iowa Ornithologist* in an enlarged form, and that Mr. David L. Savage will act as associate editor of the new publication.

MR. JOHN W. MARTIN of Palestine, Ore., well known as the publisher of the *Oregon Naturalist*, will join the ranks of Californian ornithologists during the present year. Mr. Martin recently met with a sad affliction in the death of his mother, and has since arranged to remove to California.

Avifauna of a 100-Acre Ranch.

BY H. S. SWARTH, LOS ANGELES.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club.]

The following notes were taken in a territory of about one hundred acres, situated in the north-western part of the city of Los Angeles, Cal., about a mile north-west of Westlake Park. Included in this land is a pond of about an acre in extent, which adds materially to the number of species recorded. The observations extend over a period of about seven years.

1 **PIED-BILLED GREBE.** *Podilymbus podiceps*. Resident throughout the year, but most common during the fall and winter. In the spring of 1895 a pair built a nest and laid their set, but the water rose and forced them to desert. In the spring of 1896 a pair laid their set and raised their brood successfully.

2 **WESTERN GULL.** *Larus occidentalis*.

3 **AMERICAN HERRING GULL.** *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. In the winter these two species are often seen flying over; they light occasionally but not often.

4 **FARALLONE CORMORANT.** *Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus*. Have occasionally lit in the pond, but as there are no fish in it, they never remain long.

5 **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.** *Merganser serrator*. On Dec. 27, 1894, I shot a female of this species out of a flock of seven. On several other occasions I have seen single birds which I did not secure and which may have been either of the two other species of Merganser.

6 **MALLARD.** *Anas boschas*.

7 **BALDPATE.** *Anas americana*.

8 **GREEN-WINGED TEAL.** *Anas carolinensis*. These species drop in occasionally at any time between the first of October and the end of March.

9 **BLUE-WINGED TEAL.** *Anas discors*. Mr. W. B. Judson shot a female on Oct. 31, 1896, but did not save it as a specimen. On Oct. 3, 1898, I secured one, also a female, which I now have in my collection.

10 **CINNAMON TEAL.** *Anas cyanoptera*. This species is seen more often than almost any of the others, and would undoubtedly breed if they were not disturbed. In the spring of 1896 a pair remained until very late and in all probability had part of their set laid, but as they were very tame they were shot by some wandering sportsman, so-called. In the spring of 1898 a pair remained and laid part of their set, but the nest was found and the eggs taken by some small boys. The birds then left. Cinnamon Teal occasionally drop in in July and August.

11 **SHOVELLER.** *Spatula clypeata*.

12 **PINTAIL.** *Dafila acuta*.

13 **REDHEAD.** *Aythya americana*.

14 **CANVASBACK.** *Aythya vallisneria*.

15 **LESSER SCAUP DUCK.** *Aythya affinis*. These species are occasionally seen any time between the first of October and the end of March.

16 **RING-NECKED DUCK.** *Aythya collaris*. On October 15 I saw a flock of one male and three females, all of which I secured. I have seen two or three others, single birds, but they do not drop in often.

17 **GOLDEN-EYE.** *Glauconetta clangula americana*. I have several times seen single birds, but never managed to shoot any.

18 **BUFFLE-HEAD.** *Charitonetta albeola*. Seen occasionally.

19 **RUDDY DUCK.** *Erismatura rubida*. The Ruddy Ducks arrive earlier and stay later than any of the others, excepting the Cinnamon Teal. They become very tame if not molested and sometimes stay for weeks at a time. One year a flock of about a dozen remained nearly all winter.

20 **AMERICAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.** *Anser albifrons gambeli*. On Feb. 3, 1897, I flushed a White-fronted Goose out of some weeds at the edge of the lake. I was within fifty feet of it before I saw it, but had no means of shooting it.

21 **FULVUS TREE DUCK.** *Dendrocygna fulva*. On April 18, 1898, I saw a pair of this species. They were not very wild and I secured them both with very little trouble.

22 AMERICAN BITTERN. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. A regular and rather common migrant. Occasionally seen during the winter.

23 LEAST BITTERN. *Botaurus exilis*. On July 5, 1897, I flushed two Least Bitterns out of some tules. They probably bred in the vicinity, although I had not seen them before.

24 AMERICAN EGRET. *Ardea egretta*. A very rare migrant. I have only seen them twice in the vicinity.

25 ANTHONY'S GREEN HERON. *Ardea virescens anthonyi*. A common migrant, but rather more numerous in the fall than in the spring.

26 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*. A common migrant, and to some extent a resident. On April 14, 1897, I counted nineteen in sight at once on the shores of the lake, and there were many more in a grove of eucalyptus trees close by. Usually they do not pass through here in any such large flocks. Almost every year a few remain through the summer and undoubtedly do not breed.

27 GREAT BLUE HERON. *Ardea herodias*. A common migrant and winter resident, though usually not more than one is seen at a time.

28 VIRGINIA RAIL. *Rallus virginianus*. A very common resident. I have never found a nest in the vicinity, but as I have seen the birds during every month of the year, they undoubtedly breed. Seen usually in the grass and reeds along the shallow creeks.

29 SORA RAIL. *Porzana carolina*. A common resident, though not as abundant as the former. They stay usually around the lake and are seldom seen along the creeks, where the Virginia Rail is found. Probably breeds, as they can be seen at any time during the year.

30 FLORIDA GALLINULE. *Gallinula galeata*. A pair or two nest in the tules around the pond every year. The young remain until late in the fall, when they nearly all disappear. Usually one or two remain through the winter.

31 AMERICAN COOT. *Fulica americana*. A common winter, and more rarely, a summer resident. During the winter, there are always from 10 to 20 Coots in the lake, and sometimes 80 to 100 or more. They nearly all disappear in the spring, but usually three or four remain to breed.

32 NORTHERN PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus lobatus*. A fall migrant, but very irregular. Some years a dozen or more may be seen during the migration and on others, not any. I have never seen any here in the spring.

33 AMERICAN AVOCET. *Recurvirostra americana*. On Oct. 4, 1896, I saw the only avocet that I have ever seen in the vicinity.

34 BLACK-NECKED STILT. *Himantopus mexicanus*. A regular and rather common spring migrant, appearing about the middle of April, sometimes in flocks, and sometimes singly.

35 WILSON'S SNIFE. *Gallinago delicata*. A regular spring and fall migrant and occasionally seen during the winter. They are usually more common in the fall than in the spring.

36 LEAST SANDPIPER. *Tringa minutilla*.

37 WESTERN SANDPIPER. *Ereunetes occidentalis*. Migrant, but never very numerous, and of very irregular occurrence.

38 GREATER YELLOWLEGS. *Totanus melanoleucus*. A regular but not common migrant.

39 WESTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER. *Totanus solitarius cinnamomeus*. A regular and rather common migrant, more common in the fall than in the spring, as in fact all the waders are.

40 WESTERN WILLET. *Symphemia semipalmata inornata*. On one occasion a single bird was seen.

41 SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*. A rather common migrant, generally at the same time and in the same numbers as the Solitary Sandpiper.

42 KILLDEER. *Egialitis vocifera*. Quite common almost every month in the year. A pair or two usually breed in the vicinity.

- 43 VALLEY PARTRIDGE. *Callipepla californica vallicola*. Once or twice Valley Partridges have strayed down as far as this from the foothills, but it is of rare occurrence as there is no cover for them.
- 44 GAMBEL'S PARTRIDGE. *Callipepla gambeli*. On Sept. 16, 1896, I shot an adult male of this species. Whether it was an escaped cage bird or not, I cannot say, but I know of no place in the vicinity whence it could have escaped.
- 45 BAND-TAILED PIGEON. *Columba fasciata*. On Nov. 2, 1896, I shot an immature Band-tailed Pigeon with yellow down still attached to the feathers on the head and neck.
- 46 MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura macroura*. A resident, common during the breeding season, but quite rare through the winter.
- 47 TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura*. Can be seen circling overhead almost any time, but seldom alights unless there is some special attraction.
- 48 WHITE-TAILED KITE. *Elanus leucurus*. An irregular migrant, generally seen in the fall but never at all numerous.
- 49 MARSH HAWK. *Circus hudsonius*. A common migrant, occasionally seen in the winter.
- 50 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. *Accipiter velox*. Common in the fall migration and through the winter; more rare in the spring.
- 51 COOPER'S HAWK. *Accipiter cooperi*. A regular migrant, most common in the fall.
- 52 WESTERN REDTAIL. *Buteo borealis calurus*. A fairly common migrant, often seen in the winter.
- 53 RED-BELLIED HAWK. *Buteo lineatus elegans*. Of very rare occurrence.
- 54 SWAINSON'S HAWK. *Buteo swainsoni*. A regular and rather common fall migrant. I have never seen any but the dark plumaged birds.
- 55 FERRUGINOUS ROUGHLEG. *Archibuteo ferrugineus*. A rare migrant. All the hawks are much more common in the fall than in the spring. While usually only single birds are seen, during the fall migration, I have sometimes seen quite large flocks of different species of hawks migrating together. On Oct. 16, 1897, I counted over a dozen hawks in a flock directly over me, while there were as many more in sight further away. The majority were Swainson's, but I could also distinguish Redtails and Ferruginous Roughlegs, besides others that I could not identify.
- 56 GOLDEN EAGLE. *Aquila chrysaetos*. Frequently seen flying over during the fall and winter, but I have only known one to alight in this vicinity.
- 57 PRAIRIE FALCON. *Falco mexicanus*.
- 58 DUCK HAWK. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. Both of these species are often seen during the migrations and through the winter.
- 59 PIGEON HAWK. *Falco columbaris*. Seen occasionally in the fall and winter.
- 60 DESERT SPARROW HAWK. *Falco sparverius deserticolus*. A migrant and winter resident, but while quite common during some winters, in others it is hardly seen at all.
- 61 AMERICAN BARN OWL. *Strix pratincola*. There are some Barn Owls in the vicinity nearly all through the year. One year a pair laid their set in an opening in the roof of the house. As the set was taken, they went to the house next door where they raised their brood successfully.
- 62 CALIFORNIA SCREECH OWL. *Megascops asio bendirei*. Of very rare occurrence.
- 63 PACIFIC HORNED OWL. *Bubo virginianus pacificus*. On Oct. 2, 1898, Mr. G. F. Morcom shot a female. I have seen one or two others.
- 64 BURROWING OWL. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæ*. Several pairs of Burrowing Owls breed in the fields in the vicinity, but they can hardly be called common.
- 65 CALIFORNIA CUCKOO. *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*. A very rare migrant. I have not seen more than three or four in as many years.

Concluded in next issue.

Echoes from the Field.

Notes from Alameda, Cal. Townsend's Warbler has been seen by me but once here, in winter.

Oct. 26.—Audubon's Warbler has not occurred commonly this fall. Five birds in a flock were noted near San Lorenzo, Alameda Co., on Sept. 21. Very few noted here this fall and rarely seen in spring migrations in the high plumage.

Noted a Yellow Warbler, Oct. 25.

Very few pairs of Lutescent Warbler; a few years ago a tolerably common breeder. Are annually noted in many of the primeval copes about town, and I doubt if any now remain through their nesting period.

In Contra Costa Co., March, 1899, took a nest and set of Hutton's Vireo in a scrub oak heavily draped with moss, which was also the principal composition of the nest. The notes of one of the birds caused me to stop my team and it took but a few seconds to detect the nest, on a side hill a few yards off the road. The horizontal limb, near the end of which hung the nest, was too light for my weight, so it had to be hacked off with a hatchet, no saw being handy. During the performance the limb tipped considerably, but the incubating bird remained on the nest until I began to haul in the limb. This trait is common with the Warbling Vireo and occasionally with Anna's Hummingbird, the Rufous and the Allen's being very wild in proportion.

Oct. 13. Heard what seemed to be a Western Meadow Lark twittering, and it also sounded like the Olive-sided Flycatcher. Upon approaching an apple tree I detected a California Shrike singing. The notes were low and very sweet and sung several times. At my advance from my position of observation, the Shrike uttered its characteristic, harsh cry and flew, being immediately pursued and attacked by a hummingbird, which appeared to cause little if any annoyance, across a field to a tree 100 yards distant. The hummingbird diverted its course as the shrike was about to alight.

Noted two Tree Swallows skimming over a meadow about Jan. 1. Having seen occasional birds in winter and a large bunch at Niles in January, 1898. Would indicate this swallow to winter in limited numbers in the county.

The migration of Louisiana Tanagers was very light this spring. In the fall they are a scarcer migrant, a few seen almost annually, in sombre plumage.

An instance of three nests of four eggs each of Lazuli Bunting, all situated in bushes on the high bank of a creek in the foothills, all about three and a half feet from the ground and within a few yards of each other, were reported by an acquaintance last spring. Each nest held some piped eggs.

The following curious nesting is reported by the same party:—a set of Plain Titmouse and Ash-throated Flycatcher were taken at successive intervals in 1896 from one hollow, ten feet up in a live-oak on a side-hill. The site was not visited in 1897. The remarks for 1896 apply to 1898. In 1899 the Plain Titmouse was robbed of a set of six eggs on April 15, in a hollow near by. On May 1 and 19, two of her sets were taken from the original hollow which contained a set of Red-shafted Flicker on June 8. On the same date, in a flicker's excavation, five feet from the ground in a dead oak stump ten feet high, standing on a side hill, a California Screech Owl was incubating one of her own and one Red-shafted Flicker's egg. A visit to the nest one week later disclosed the same state of affairs.

On April 29, I discovered a nest almost completed of Black-headed Grosbeak in an apple tree from which I took four fresh eggs on May 9. I made written memoranda of the number of the tree and the row in the orchard and on July 17 was surprised to find a nest and three eggs in the same crotch and am inclined to believe it was the third nest of the two pairs that bred in the orchard.

D. A. COHEN, Alameda, Cal.

Odd Nesting Sites of Samuel's Song Sparrow. On the 29th of April, 1898, I found a nest of this species built in the side of a large bunch of driftwood and leaves, lodged in the forks of a willow tree, twelve feet above the ground, on the banks of a stream. The eggs, three in number, were laid in a depression, which was slightly lined with straw and hair, in the side of the mass of driftwood, and were far advanced in incubation. This nest was discovered by seeing the bird leave. Just a year later, upon the 29th of April, 1899, I secured a set of four fresh eggs from a nest which was built in an old nest of the Black-headed Grosbeak from which a set of eggs was taken in 1898. The nest was in a fork near the top of a small willow tree, ten feet from the ground, in a thick growth of small willows near a stream. It was placed in a Grosbeak's nest, and was compactly built of straw, leaves and grasses, lined with fine grass and horsehair. When we consider that this sparrow usually nests in blackberry thickets and thick underbrush three or four feet above the ground, it will be readily seen that the above recorded nests were in rather unusual places.

Queer Antics of a Western Redtail. While cultivating in my orchard one warm morning last spring, I was watching a Western Red-tailed Hawk that was passing over. It was flying high, in a north-easterly direction, and flying fast, as if returning to its nest, when suddenly it tumbled over and over in the manner of a tumbler pigeon, directly downward for a distance of about forty feet, then spread its wings and resumed flight. I thought for an instant that some one had shot it, but hearing no report and seeing the hawk continue its journey, I concluded that the bird had, in all probability, been attacked by some small bird or insect and had adapted this manner of eluding it. WM. L. ATKINSON, Santa Clara, Cal.

Discoloration of Plumage in Certain Birds. It may be worth while to notice the fact that many birds taken near cities have the plumage greatly discolored. Whether this is due to smoke, ashes, coal dust, or charcoal of burnt stubs I am unable to say. From their appearance it might be any of these agencies. About Denver it may be due to the smelter smoke. As to a certain *Otocoris*, sent to Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., he said: "and 1077 [*argenicola*] is of course soiled with coal dust or some such thing, perhaps from feeding on ash heaps." Near Denver the birds which show the greatest amount of dirt on their plumage are the house finches. Every feather is greatly darkened by the extraneous substance and the red areas are so toned down as to be inconspicuous. In regard to this species I believe Mr. Ridgway has suggested that the birds feed in burnt timber. In the vicinity of Denver, at least, it is rather doubtful if this be the case.

In the same locality *Anthus*, *Lanius*, *Junco* and *Ammodramus* have also been taken with soiled plumages. Coming now to California, we find a smoky plumage in *Ammodramus*, *Thryomanes*, *Anthus* and *Zonotrichia*, all taken in the vicinity of San Francisco. Mr. Slevin, to whom I spoke of the matter, said that *Colaptes* hung around the roofs of buildings in Alameda and probably got dirty from sliding on the shingles, a theory which seems quite probable. In his collection he showed me specimens of *Colaptes*, *Accipiter* and *Regulus*, from Alameda, and a *Dryobates* from Aiken, S. C., all very much soiled.

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR, Palo Alto, Cal.

Brewer's Blackbird Nesting in Cavities. On April 21, 1895, while at Sargents, Cal., a peculiar nesting site of Brewer's Blackbird was noted. A colony of these birds were inhabiting a small live oak grove on a hill. I was surprised to find one nest built in a small cavity on the under side of a rotten oak limb, about ten feet from the ground. The nest was composed largely of Spanish moss and lined with horse hair. It contained two fresh eggs. The cavity was one such as is generally selected by a Sparrow Hawk in which to build. C. BARLOW, Santa Clara, Cal.

Sierran Crossbill in El Dorado Co., Cal. At Fyffe, El Dorado Co., on June 8, 1899, Mr. Carriger and I noted a bird on the low limbs of a pine near the house, which at first glance we took to be a male Cassin's Finch. Upon shooting it, the specimen resolved itself into a Sierran Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*, ♂) in rich

plumage. The testes were undeveloped and the bird showed no signs of breeding. This was at an altitude of 3,700 feet, in the forests of yellow pine. For two days after this I saw at different times, flocks of crossbills in the tops of the pines and firs, moving along rapidly and doubtless feeding upon the buds of these trees, but secured no other specimens. They were probably moving up into the high Sierras, although up to this time their migration must have been strictly a northern one, as none were seen or reported west of Fyffe, showing it was then entirely too late for them to be migrating up from the valleys.

C. BARLOW, Santa Clara, Cal.

Occurrence of the American Scaup Duck in Los Angeles Co., Cal. In a bunch of ducks sent me by ex-Governor Markham and shot by him at Bixby, Cal., Dec. 20, 1899, I find a male American Scaup Duck (*Aythya marila nearctica*). This is a new record for Los Angeles Co., and an addition to Mr. Grinnell's list.

F. S. DAGGETT, Pasadena, Cal.

Early Nesting of the Pasadena Thrasher. On the 15th of last month, (December '99,) Dr. Fenyes and myself, while hunting over a brush-covered wash near Azusa, were surprised to find a nest of this species (*Harporhynchus redivivus pasadenensis*). It was in no ways peculiar, except as to the date, being built two and one-half feet above the ground in a black-sage bush. One of the birds was sitting closely and the other singing from its perch at the top of a bush not far off. The nest contained three eggs in which incubation was well begun. The thrashers are always in full song soon after their single annual moult which occurs in August, but they do not ordinarily breed before March and April, though we have one county record for January 27.*

JOSEPH GRINNELL, Pasadena, Cal.

An Unusually High Nest of Audubon's Hermit Thrush. Mr. Belding's note in the March-April BULLETIN for 1899, on the nesting of the Audubon's Hermit Thrush (*Turdus aonalaschke auduboni*) in the Sierra Nevadas, brings to mind the only set of eggs of this bird I have seen. We were near the summit of the Sierras on the 6th of June, 1896, and while looking around in a grove of trees, I noticed a nest well out on a pine limb, thirty feet from the ground. On climbing the tree, the bird was seen upon the nest and flew off when closely approached. The nest is strongly built of twigs and bright yellow moss (*Evernia vulpina*), with a layer of fine dry leaves, within which is a heavy lining of fine grass stems. The nest contained four fresh eggs. The height from the ground seems unusual as compared with other records, but it was perhaps to get the benefit of the morning sun, as patches of snow lay all around and the nights were quite chilly. Several birds were heard or seen between 7,000 and 8,000 feet in El Dorado Co., and several heard singing in the Merced grove of Big Trees a couple of weeks later.

R. H. BECK, Berryessa, Cal., Dec. 20, 1899.

Notes from Haywards, Cal. In some notes published in the *Nidologist*, Mr. D. A. Cohen of Alameda mentions that the Hermit Warbler (*D. occidentalis*) was reported seen in 1885 at Berkeley. My records extend back to March 4, 1880, when two males were shot in live oaks on the north hillside at Haywards. I find among my records the taking of a Black-throated Gray Warbler (*D. nigrescens*) on Oct. 14, 1882, and another seen on May 11, 1883. I also have a male Myrtle Warbler (*D. coronata*) taken April 13, 1881, the only specimen ever noted here.

I shot a male and noted two other Red-breasted Nuthatches on Oct. 14, 1882, the only time I observed them. A California Creeper (*C. familiaris occidentalis*) was observed in the live oaks on Feb. 2, 1890, being rather out of its range as it is restricted to the redwood and pine regions. On Dec. 8, 1885, a cold, wet, windy day, I noticed several Californian Chickadees (*Parus rufescens neglectus*) feeding among the cypress trees, which is the only time they were seen. They were no doubt common years ago, before the disappearance of the redwoods from the hillsides and canons. A female was taken at Dry Creek Aug. 1, 1896, and the species may breed on this side of the bay shore.

W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal.

*Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles county.

Communications.

AGAINST THE GENERAL USE OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES.

Mr. McGregor's "Plea for the General Use of Scientific Names" as set forth in our last BULLETIN, is, to my mind, illogical, and moreover expresses a sentiment which I am sure is far from prevalent among bird people. Let me say to start with, that I do recognize the necessity of scientific names, and for some of the very reasons Mr. McGregor gives. But I do not favor their general use in literature, either semi-popular or scientific, to the exclusion of vernacular names. To the "average person," take for example the Cooper Club membership, *Ardea virescens* may very obviously mean as much as Green Heron, and *Corvus americanus* as much as American Crow; but how about *Tachycineta thalassina*, *Helminthophila celata sordida* and *Hesperocichla naevia*, the common names of which are respectively, Violet-green Swallow, Dusky Warbler and Varied Thrush? Most of our intellects are far more capable of grasping and retaining a simple English name, as a great majority of our trivial names are, than the often complex and misapplied terms of Latin and Greek origin, with which languages we are not as familiar as are Mr. McGregor, Dr. Coues, Mr. D. G. Elliott and other philologists.

Mr. McGregor makes a statement which I very much doubt when he says "it is impossible to find enough common names to supply all the species of birds," even taking into consideration the avifauna of the whole world. Ornithology is a more popular study than that of many of the other animal classes. In fact, in entomology and palæontology, scarcely any one but specialists are interested, and vernacular names are not needed except for the most familiar and wide-spread species. Hence I do not deem it inconsistent if birds are supplied with vernacular names, and certain other groups less familiarly known to the general public, are not.

In the cases of many North American birds, there are several scientific synonyms. That is no reason why one of them, complying with certain well-known laws of preference, should not

be selected as being the only recognized and tenable name. Correspondingly, among the numerous synonymical vernacular names of many of our common species is it not possible to select one, the best on account of appropriateness and most extended use, and recognize that one name as the only tenable one? This the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature has so far done. I know of but this one set of vernacular names for use in connection with our North American birds, the ones which this Committee have selected, just as with the scientific names. I would refer Mr. McGregor to Recommendation X of the A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature.

It is true that there are numerous trivial names on the A. O. U. Checklist now, which are taken directly from the Latin generic names, or are of barbarous origin. But these are mostly appropriate and of long standing so that they are now in familiar use. Similarly, there are many poor scientific names, barbarities, some of them mere combinations of letters with no meaning whatever. But according to the righteous law of priority they can never be changed. Appropriate English names when once adopted, should likewise become fixed and permanent.

I do not feel as Mr. McGregor does: I much prefer to see the vernacular name of a bird used in ordinary literature, rather than the Latin name. Supposing in the last BULLETIN, instead of our familiar bird names as used in J. M. W.'s delightful essay, the scientific names were in every case substituted! Instead of Meadowlark, *Sturnella*; Towhee, *Pipilo*; Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes*; Barn Swallow, *Hirundo*; Jay, *Cyanocitta*; etc. Would it have added to the value or accuracy of those poetical descriptions? The description of a woodland scene may be as scientific and accurate as the comparative measurements of the primaries of a warbler's wing. In either case where reference is made to a certain bird, shall we say *Dendroica* or Warbler? Which conveys the keenest idea of the bird in question to the "average person"? By the way, there are far more "half-scientists" who find pleasure in knowing something of

the relationship of animals," than specialists; and the more exclusive in their technical terms do the specialists become, the less can the average person understand of their work and writings.

I see no reason why it is not proper to give both the scientific and common names in faunal lists. If a person is more familiar with the vernacular names, he is better and sooner able to understand what species are recorded, than if only the scientific names are given. Mr. McGregor is the first person I ever heard of who is bothered by the vernacular names. I think it is the rule that "the average person" learns the common names of birds first, and then gradually acquires the scientific names.

If we should adopt the exclusive use of scientific names in our lists and semi-popular ornithological journals, a large class of readers would be greatly inconvenienced, and I see nothing to be gained. Uniformity and permanence are just as possible with common as with scientific names, and, in the study of ornithology, we need both.

JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Pasadena, Cal.

Book Reviews.

NEWTON'S DICTIONARY OF BIRDS. By Prof. Alfred Newton; pp. 1088; profusely illustrated; 1 map, New York, Macmillan Co. \$5.

This superb work on ornithology which was originally published in four parts, the last of which was completed in 1896, is now offered the public in one unabridged volume, at a moderate price, and every working ornithologist must hail the advent of such an edition with pleasure. To Club members who have not seen this admirable work it is well to state that it is everything and more than its name implies,—an encyclopædia of ornithological terms and facts, both common and technical, and a work which the novice or scientist may alike peruse with interest and to advantage. Any ornithologist will find within its pages much to interest and instruct in spare moments, for it is most readable aside from its value as a reference work, and for the latter use, it leaves nothing to be desired.

Thus, as a "dictionary" of ornithological topics, the present volume easily takes front rank in the available ornithological literature of to-day. The volume is a reprint of the four previously issued parts, all of which is preceded by a most valuable introduction (pp. 1-120), which constitutes an interesting history of ornithology from the first published writings of Aristotle (385-322 B. C.) to the present day. To

the ornithologist who studies his science for the simple love of it, how interesting it is to follow its progress from the time of its inception as a science, down through the ages! To those who are so interested we recommend the "Dictionary." The work is compiled with the topics alphabetically arranged, which is doubtless the most acceptable form for working ornithologists who appreciate a ready reference work. In the "Dictionary" are treated bird species and kindred subjects, such as geographical distribution, migration, moult, muscular system, nidification, vascular system, etc., *ad infinitum*. The various portions of bird anatomy are also treated in their respective places and seemingly every subject which might present itself to the naturalist is perfectly handled, leaving nothing to be desired. In the preface the author states "It has been my object throughout to compress into the smallest compass the information intended to be conveyed," and to the fact that this has been observed, is largely due the excellence of the entire work.—C. B.

THE A. O. U. MEETING.

The Seventeenth Congress of the A. O. U. held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Nov. 13-16, was notable for several reasons. It was the first time in the history of the Union that a meeting has been held elsewhere than in New York, Washington or Cambridge, while the total attendance of members, as well as the number of papers presented, was greater than ever before.

The most noteworthy features of the programme were the numerous papers dealing with the question of moult and feather structure, and the wonderful excellence of modern bird photography as shown by lantern slides. Dr. Roberts' series of pictures of Franklin's Gull on its nesting grounds has probably never been surpassed. Every phase of the life of the bird was shown, and the parent was actually photographed while dropping an escaped young bird back into the nest!

Besides the regular programme, the members attended the meeting of the Academy on Tuesday evening and Mr. F. M. Chapman made a communication on the "Bird Rocks of the Gulf of St. Lawrence." On Friday a number of members visited "Mill Grove," the former home of Audubon, where they were entertained by Mr. Wetherill, the present owner.

The Annual Meetings of both divisions of the Cooper Club, held respectively in Pasadena and Santa Clara, were by far the most successful and enthusiastic sessions held by either division in recent years. This shows which way the wind is blowing in California, and this amalgamation of kindred spirits is a most happy thing to contemplate.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The index to Volume I, mailed with this issue, is the work of Mr. Richard C. McGregor, to whom the editors return thanks for this and other valuable assistance rendered during the year.

Mr. Swarth's list which records 175 species and subspecies of birds within the confines of a 100-acre ranch in the city of Los Angeles, is an illustration of the extended list and interesting facts which systematic and careful observation will accomplish, and we venture to say that few observers in the Club can show as complete a list for a like area.

Volume I of the BULLETIN can be supplied while the back numbers are in print, at \$1. per volume. The 120 pages of text embraced in the volume, contain new bird descriptions, valuable observations on the nests and eggs of numerous little-known species, besides a mass of popular material and biographies, which make the volume especially desirable for future reference.

The Club library has recently added Turner's "Contributions to the Natural History of Alaska" and Nelson's "Report upon Natural History Collections Made in Alaska," with the excellence of which volumes, ornithologists generally, are acquainted. Both volumes are donated by Mr. Lyman Belding of Stockton, who has on previous occasions shown his generosity and good-will toward the Cooper Club.

ERRATUM:—In our last issue in reviewing the collection of Miss Jean Bell, reference was

made to the purchase of "over one thousand selected sets from the collection of Mr. Thos. H. Jackson." This statement was a regrettable error, as Mr. Jackson has never offered for sale his collection nor any part of it. The sets mentioned were from the collection of Mr. S. B. Ladd. We regret the injustice done Mr. Jackson and take pleasure in making this correction.

As an illustration of the knowledge accruing from proper collecting in the field, we might call attention to the communication of Mr. Jos. Mailliard in this issue on the color changes in the crown of certain of the *Picidae*, a point which it appears has heretofore been overlooked. This demonstrates the necessity of collecting in series at proper seasons, and it would seem that all unbiased ornithologists must concede that the results amply justify such collecting.

In preparing the completed volumes of various ornithological journals for binding, one cannot but notice a grievous fault in the matter of allowing advertising pages to become so mixed with the text that they cannot be eliminated in binding. This is, at best, unsightly, and after removing the covers and superfluous advertising pages, we too often find the back of the last sheet devoted to advertising which cannot be done away with because the reverse side is given to text. We notice this fault even in that model of typographical propriety, *Bird-Lore*. If advertising pages must be inserted, they should be so printed that the half-sheet containing them can be torn off, leaving the corresponding pages of text to be bound, thus causing no interruption of the consecutiveness of the pages in the bound volume. Is it not well for our publishers to keep this matter, trifling as it may appear, in mind?

Amid many graceful compliments, the CONDOR, with earnest stroke, launches itself upon its second volume, feeling that its range has been wisely proven sufficient for its support. The magazine will be but the BULLETIN of 1899 under its new and briefer and more distinct title, and it expects to gain support wholly through its course of presenting the most attractive and valuable articles on ornithology to the fraternity. Every publisher must have discovered that it is next to impossible to thrust upon the public something it does not want, and the CONDOR has therefore relied solely upon its merit for support, and this, we may modestly add, has not been slow in forthcoming. A second volume of promptly issued numbers, filled with articles of merit and interest, is therefore assured. The new cover adorning this issue is the work of Mr. W. Otto Emerson, the Cooper Club artist, whose talent has frequently been displayed, for the Club's benefit.

Subscribers are requested to remit their *renewals* direct to the CONDOR, as no discount is allowed agents for renewals and this course, therefore, becomes the most direct one.

Dr. Elliott Coues.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 26.—Professor Elliott Coues of Washington, the world-famed ornithologist and scientist, died last night at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Such were the tidings that caused the profoundest sorrow in ornithological and scientific circles, and which marks the passing of one of the ablest and most brilliant scientific writers of the nineteenth century. Few who have followed the writings of Dr. Coues could fail to be impressed with his forceful style, even though they might



at times differ from his expressed opinions.

His pen was seldom swayed by the opinions of others, and from it alike could flow the most caustic criticism or the warmest encomium, and he was seldom found without pronounced views on a subject, either favorable or antagonistic. In some of the discussions into which he has entered during his career, are found examples of his keenest satire and, perhaps, his finest rhetorical effects, and he had been regarded by some as without a peer in this respect.

Dr. Coues was best known to ornithologists through his excellent "Key to North American Birds," his "Birds of

the Northwest," and publications of lesser value. He had served as president of the American Ornithologists' Union and was a member of its Executive Council at the time of his death. He acted also as an associate editor of the Century Dictionary. His able editorship of the *Osprey* is familiar to all, and his premature and sudden withdrawal from an active life causes the seemingly irreparable loss of a brilliant personage.

Dr. Elliott Coues was born in New Hampshire in 1842. He graduated from the Columbian University of Washington and entered the Army in 1862 as a medical cadet, leaving it later as a surgeon. He was a specialist in ornithology, anatomy and geology, and had at different times been connected with the Smithsonian Institution and the Geological Survey. Since his retirement from the *Osprey* he had been engaged in geological work in New Mexico for the Government, but returned to Washington in poor health, due perhaps to overwork. The news of his demise came suddenly, however, to the large army of scientists who have long and favorably known him.

Others more familiar with his life will write the biography of Dr. Coues, but the ornithologists of the West tender to his memory the tribute due a friend, a masterful scholar and peerless ornithologist.—C. B.

MR. W. OTTO EMERSON delivered an illustrated talk before the California Fruit Growers' Convention at San Jose, on Dec. 15. His subject, "Birds Beneficial and Injurious to the Orchardist," was finely illustrated with drawings and skins.

THE Section of Ornithology of the California Academy of Sciences held its Annual Meeting at the Academy on Tuesday evening, Dec. 5. The meeting was preceded by an informal banquet at which members participated. The Section has prospered materially during the year past, and much credit is due Prof. Leverett M. Loomis, Curator in the Department of Ornithology, for his active efforts in behalf of the organization.

Official Minutes of Northern Division.

JANUARY.

The Annual Meeting was held at the home of C. Barlow in Santa Clara, Cal., Jan. 6, with an attendance of sixteen. The following papers were read: "Casual Observations on a Colony of Black-crowned Night Herons," by D. A. Cohen; "Woodpeckers of the Upper Salinas Valley," by Chas. S. Thompson; "Nesting of the California Clapper Rail," by Ernest Adams; "A Neglected Point Concerning the *Picidae*," by Jos. Mailliard; "A History of My Life, by *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*," by W. L. Atkinson. A paper on the "Summer Home of the Varied Thrush," by Jos. Grinnell of the Southern Division was read.

Mr. Cohen gave the annual report of the treasurer. The election of officers for 1900 resulted as follows: President, W. Otto Emerson; Vice President, Theodore J. Hoover; Secretary, C. Barlow; Treasurer, Donald A. Cohen. The president appointed the incumbent editorial force for 1900, as follows: Editor-in-Chief, C. Barlow; Associate, H. R. Taylor; Business Manager, D. A. Cohen. A Publication Committee for the publication of memoirs was appointed as follows for the Northern Division: Theodore J. Hoover, Richard C. McGregor, Jos. Mailliard, W. O. Emerson and C. Barlow.

Chas. S. Thompson of Stanford University, Chas. A. Nace of Santa Clara, E. H. Skinner of San Jose and Lloyd T. Stephenson of Vinton were proposed for active membership. A resolution of thanks to Mr. Lyman Belding for the donation of two volumes of Alaskan Ornithology to the Club, was passed. A bill of \$4.10 for postage was allowed the secretary. The meeting repaired to the dining room, where, between courses, the annual address was delivered by the president, Mr. Emerson. The Division meets March 3 at the home of W. Otto Emerson at Haywards.

C. BARLOW, Secretary.

Official Minutes of Southern Division.

NOVEMBER.

Southern Division met on Nov. 29, 1899, at the residence of Mr. F. S. Daggett in Pasadena. President McCormick presided. Twelve members were present. Messrs. G. E. Little, Dr. Coffin, F. Grinnell and W. Moody were present as visitors. Mr. Roth Reynolds of Los Angeles was elected to membership. Mr. Grinnell proposed the names of G. E. Little and Dr. Coffin of Whittier for membership. In the matter of a Publication Committee, as proposed by the Northern Division, it was decided to elect three members to serve on such committee. Messrs. Grinnell, Daggett and Robertson were nominated. For the nomination of officers for the ensuing year, on motion of Mr. Grinnell, it was decided to re-nominate the old board of officers which stands,—For President, A. I. McCormick; Vice President, F. S. Daggett; Secretary, Howard Robertson; Treasurer, H. S. Swarth; Business Manager, A. I. McCormick; Associate Editor, Howard Robertson.

It was arranged to hold the annual banquet on Dec. 28. Mr. Daggett very kindly offered his residence as a meeting place, which was accepted with thanks. Mr. Grinnell gave two papers,—an answer to Mr. McGregor's "Plea for the General Use of Scientific Names," and "The Varied Thrush in Summer." He exhibited eight skins of the Varied Thrush, six adults and two juveniles, three nests and a series of forty-four eggs of same species. He also exhibited specimens of Rock and Willow Ptarmigan in both winter and summer plumages, and skins of Golden Plover and Canada Grouse. Dr. Coffin, who was a member of the same party as Mr. Grinnell, related several anecdotes of the trip. The receipt of a paper from the Northern Division was acknowledged but was not read for want of time.

DECEMBER.

The Annual Meeting of the Southern Division was held Dec. 28, 1899, at the residence of Mr. F. S. Daggett, Pasadena. There were sixteen members present. Messrs. Little, Coffin and Conant were present as visitors. Dr. G. V. Coffin and G. E. Little were elected to membership. Officers for ensuing year were elected as follows: A. I. McCormick, President; F. S. Daggett, Vice President; Howard Robertson, Secretary; H. S. Swarth, Treasurer; Associate Editor, Howard Robertson; Business Manager, A. I. McCormick; Publication Committee, F. S. Daggett, Jos. Grinnell and Howard Robertson. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and copies ordered filed. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$12 on hand. The meeting adjourned to the banquet room where several papers were read.

HOWARD ROBERTSON, Sec'y.

Publications Received.

Chapman, Frank M. Report on Birds Received through the Peary Expedition to Greenland. [Extract from the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. Vol. XII. Article XVII, pp. 219-244. Dec. 23, 1899.]

Chapman, Frank M. Description of Two New Subspecies of *Colymbus dominicus* Linn. [Extract from Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History Vol. XII, pp. 255-256.]

Rothschild, Hon. Walter, and Ernst Hartert. A Review of the Ornithology of the Galapagos Islands; with Notes on the Webster-Harris Expedition. [From *Novitates Zoologicae*. Vol. VI. August, 1899.]

Auk, The, XVI, Nos. 1-4, 1899.

Bird-Lore, I, No. 6, Dec., 1899.

Maine Sportsman, VII, Nos. 75-76, Nov., Dec., 1899.

Museum, VI, Nos. 1-2, Nov., Dec., 1899.

Oologist, XVI, No. 11-12, Nov., Dec., 1899.

Osprey, IV, Nos. 3-4, Nov., Dec., 1899.

Plant World, II, No. 12, Sept., 1899.

Popular Science, XXXIV, No. 1, Jan., 1900.

Recreation, XI, No. 6, Dec., 1899.

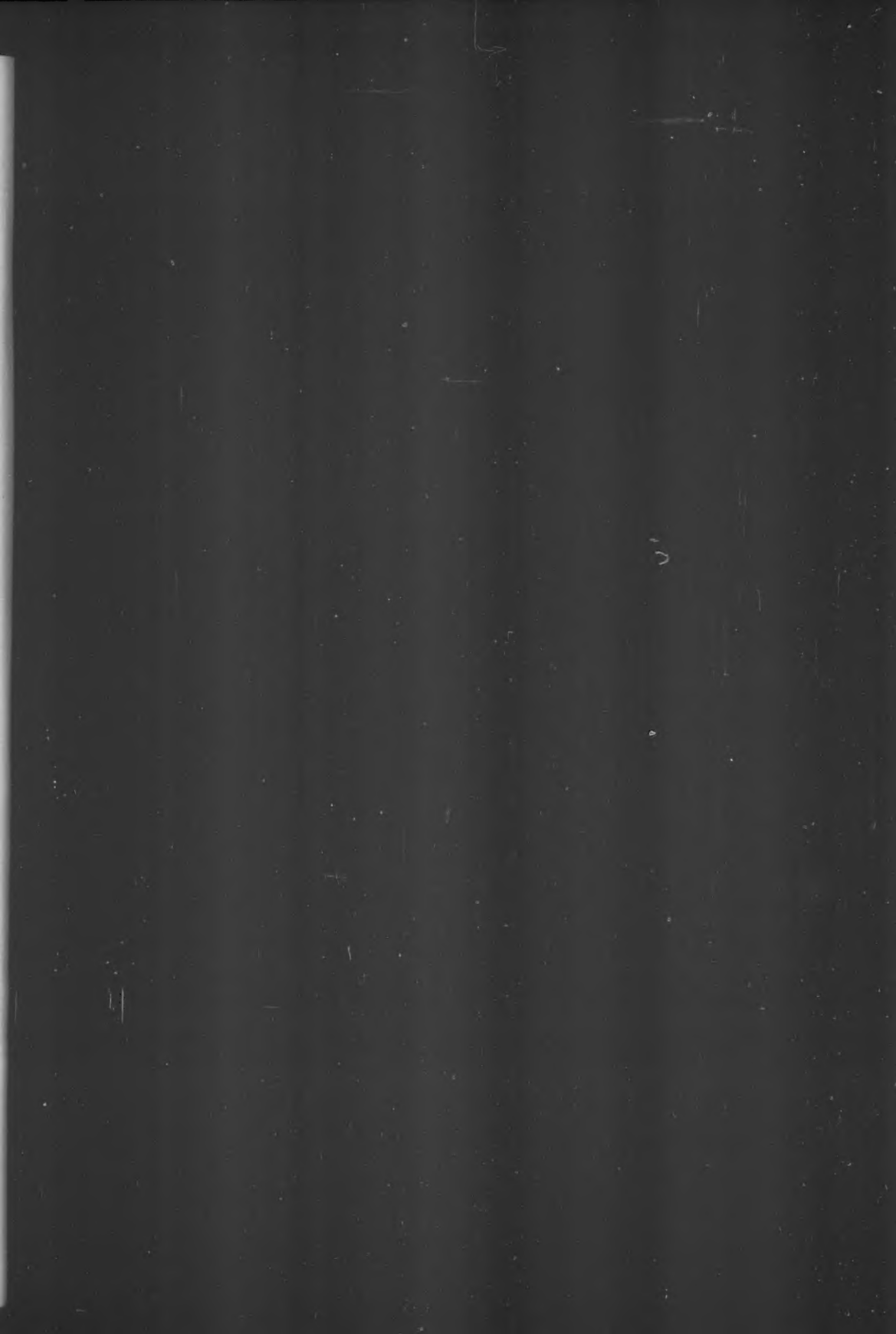
Report of the U. S. National Museum for 1897. Part I. (Issued 1899.)

Sports Afield, XXIII, No. 6, Dec., 1899.

XXIV, No. 1, Jan., 1900.

Sunset, IV, No. 1-2, Nov., Dec., 1899.

Wilson Bulletin, No. 29, Nov., 30, 1899.



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Exchange Notices.

Each member of the Club, not in arrears for dues, is entitled to three exchange notices of 30 words each during the year; other subscribers, one such notice.

NOTICE—Having joined the U. S. Steamer *Pathfinder*, I shall be in the Hawaiian Islands until May 1. Specimens and letters sent to Palo Alto, Cal., will be cared for until my return.

R. C. MCGREGOR.

WANTED—First class bird skins from any locality, and in any number; many common species desired. I can offer for exchange many eggs in sets, and singles, including some rare northern species.

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Attention will be paid to the bird-life of the countries made prominent by recent events, Tappan Adney writing of the birds of the Klondike, H. W. Henshaw, of the birds of Hawaii, L. M. McCormick, of Philippine birds, and F. M. Chapman of Cuban birds, while A. J. Campbell, the authority on Australian birds, will describe the wonderful habits of the Bower Birds of Australia, accompanying his paper by actual photographs of their bowers from nature.

For teachers there will be a series of papers on teaching ornithology, in which Olive Thorne Miller, Prof. Lynds Jones, of Oberlin, Marion C. Hubbard, of Wellesley, and others, will describe their methods of instruction.

Students will be glad to avail themselves of the assistance offered by *Bird-Lore's* "Advisory Council," a new idea in self-educational ornithology, which places students in direct communication with an authority on the bird-life of their region who has consented to aid them. Among special papers for students will be Ernest Seton Thompson's "How to Know the Hawks and Owls," illustrated by the author; F. A. Lucas' "Tongues of Birds," also illustrated by the author; Professor Pynchon of Trinity College will write on a method of keeping notes, and John Rowley will describe a recently invented camera, which opens new fields in bird photography.

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